

So You Want to Evaluate Your Collection

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Reasons for Collection Evaluations

- Budgetary Constraints
- Collection Development
- Electronic Resources
- Consortiums
- Program Reviews

Ways of Collection Evaluation

Traditionally include:

- Quantitative descriptions
- Qualitative descriptions

Quantitative Descriptions

- Measuring linear feet of library materials,
- Physical volume counts,
- Shelf list measurements

Qualitative Descriptions

- Checking appropriate bibliographies
- Consideration of the levels of programs the collection supports
- Size of the user population

Collection Evaluation Methods

- Citation Analysis
- User Statistics
- Workflows Reports
- Collection Sampling

Citation Analysis

- In 1995, reviewed 79 peer-reviewed articles published between 1990-1994
- Over 2460 citations
- Serial citations dispersed between 286 titles
- 145 titles covered 92% of the citations
- 25-35 year timespan covered 90% of the citations
- Compared serial subscriptions to core journal listings
- Results: 11 titles used heavily without a subscription; 8 available locally; 3 titles added to collection

Citation Analysis

- In 2003, reviewed peer-reviewed articles published between 1999-2003
- NOS and NMFS published in 6 titles held
- NOS 70 publications in 36 titles; 19 titles used solely
- NMFS 41 publications in 22 titles; 5 titles used solely
- NOS cited 368 journal titles; NMFS cited 148 titles
- NOS 2175 citations; NMFS 628 citations

User Statistics

- Interlibrary Loan
 - Number of Loans per month per user
 - Number of pages per article per user
 - Cost per page per user
 - Cost per document per user
 - Journal titles requested per month
- Database Usage
- Billable Hours

Workflows Reports

- Collection size
- Collection age
- Collection size and/or age by LC classification
- Number of unique title records
- Number of unique items

Collection Sampling

- Determine the number of shelves in your collection
- Determine the percentage of the collection that you wish to sample
- Generate random numbers to correspond to the sampling shelves
- Assess what type of material is on each shelf: book, report, journal, etc.
- Assign a dollar figure to each type of material
- Calculate the dollar amount for each sample size
- Calculate the total dollar amount for each sample

Things to Remember

- Determine what type of information that you need
- Use percentages
- Have a researcher (or two) review your methodology
- Number Don't Lie!

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